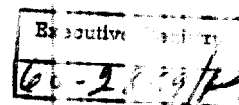


0-773



31 MAY 1960

Mr. Norman Thomas  


Dear Norman,

In answer to your letter of April 20, 1960, I am happy to send you the following available information concerning the status of the Kalmyk peoples in the Kalmyk Autonomous Republic and other parts of the USSR.

When the Kalmyk Autonomous Republic with its 104,000 population (official 1939 census) was liquidated in late 1943, the Kalmyks were not resettled en masse in any one locality of the USSR, however, the majority were apparently dispersed in parts of Siberia, especially in Krasnodarskiy kray. In the following years, little was heard in the Soviet Union about the Kalmyk peoples. It was later reported that they had been scattered among the Soviet peasants on the various kolkhozes in the region. Elaborate steps had been taken to Russianize them; they were not permitted to have Kalmyk schools; temples, priests and religious practices were forbidden and they were not permitted to travel at all. All were required to attend Soviet schools but they were not permitted to go beyond the Ten-Year School. No Kalmyks, with certain exceptions, were permitted to serve in the Soviet army and there were no Kalmyk school teachers. By 1953, however, a visitor reportedly met a Kalmyk school teacher and a Kalmyk army officer in Krasnoyarskiy kray.

The formal reinstatement of the Kalmyks as a national entity began with the reconstituting of the Kalmyk autonomous oblast' by a decree of the

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE T)

Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on January 9, 1957, although individual Kalmyks had begun to return to the homeland earlier. On July 26, 1958, the area was once again restored to the status of an autonomous republic. The capital city was once more named ELISTA, after fifteen years as STEPNOY.

It is difficult to arrive at an estimate of the number of Kalmyks who survived the deportation, since official Soviet census figures indicate numbers of national groups residing in the fifteen constituent republics, without specific breakdown into regions. Since both the newly reformed Kalmyk Autonomous Republic and the Krasnoyarskiy kray are administratively subordinate to the Russian Federated Republic, the figure of 101,000 Kalmyks as of January 14, 1959, offers no clue to their real whereabouts. The scattered Kalmyk tribes which have lived for centuries in Central Asia, and which were not molested after World War II, probably account for the remaining 5,000 Kalmyks included in the announced USSR total of 106,000. Recent visitors to the Kalmyk Autonomous Republic have observed Kalmyk and Russian peasants living side by side in extreme poverty and isolation; in a settlement just south of Ozero (Lake) Arshan'-Zel'men', both Kalmyks and Russians living in hovels dug out of the ground, with roofs of straw were reported.

A Kalmyk

told a visitor that his family had been deported "across the Caspian", and had returned. He admitted that the Kalmyks in his region were still not permitted to have their own Buddhist priests.

The latest official population figure for the Kalmyk republic (1958) shows 179,500. In addition to the capital city, ELISTA, there are two settlements of city type. The republic is divided into ten rayons.

In regard to your request for information on Soviet civil defense, I would like to refer you to the following

two studies which are available through the Library of Congress: These two documents, particularly the first listed, are excellently prepared studies on Soviet civil defense.

Civil Defense in Western Europe and  
the Soviet Union  
Union Calendar 108  
81st Congress, First Session  
House of Representatives No. 300  
GPO June 1959 Item #7387

Selected Soviet Military Translations  
U.S. Joint Publications Research  
Service #875-D  
GPO catalogue October 1959, entry #14813.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

cc: DDCI

Signature Recommended:

25 MAY 1960

Deputy Director (Plans)

(24 May 1960)

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24 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Central Intelligence  
VIA : Deputy Director (Plans)  
SUBJECT : Request for Information by Norman Thomas

1. The attached letter was prepared at the Director's request and it is being submitted for his signature.

2. The information supplied on the Kalmyk Autonomous Republic is rather sketchy, but I believe it will be of value to Mr. Thomas. The Soviet Civil Defense pamphlets to which he is referred are detailed studies and are considered good basic documents on this subject.

25X1

  
Chief, SR Division

Attachment: As stated

cc: DDCI

~~SECRET~~